

MASON'S Coin Collectors'

HERALD

VOL. II.

JUNE, 1880.

No. 1.

REMINISCENCES OF A COIN DEALER.

BY E. M., JR.

No. 1.

In a Desperate Fix.—A Dog Story.

THERE are many thrilling scenes in the life of a Coin Dealer worth handing down to a future numismatic generation, and many others of a less thrilling nature that may be read with interest and amusement, but scarcely worth preserving. Of the thrilling and humorous, in equal proportions, our present sketch is composed.

One pleasant Saturday afternoon, not many days ago, a couple of coin dealers, whose names we designate as Brown and Smith, although extensively known as Woodward and Mason, left the romantic and pretty precincts of Boston Highlands, by a private conveyance publicly recognised by the euphonious title of "Hoss Car", for the depot of the Fall River R. R. Co., there to take passage, via cars and steamboat, to New York; Brown to engineer a Coin Sale, to come off the following week, and Smith to distribute a bag of numismatic treasures among the Philadelphia Coin Collectors. In a short hour our two worthies arrived at the depot and sought seats in a crowded passenger car. The only vacant seats were at the front end near the water dep't., and Smith and Brown accepting the alternative dropped into the seat facing the locomotive, Smith placing his leather bag of coins under his seat, while Brown placed his numismatic valise under the seat opposite where he was seated. After riding along some forty odd miles, Fall River was reached and Brown having agreed to provide the state room on the steamer, Smith agreed to provide the provender; then Smith arose from his cramped position to follow the crowd out of the cars, to the steamer Bristol, which was puffing and blowing, backing and filling with freight and humanity ready to commence her journey across the Sound. Smith had grabbed his satchel and was rushing towards the car door, when he looked back, and saw Brown in a stooping position with his hand thrust under the seat.

Smith—(returning to the seat.) "What's the matter Brown? why don't you seize your valise and rush out—we'll be left if you don't hurry."

Brown—(looking the picture of despair.) "Smith, come here; squat down; look under that seat; what in thunder is it? Can't get my valise out."

Smith—(stooping down, thrusts his hand under the seat and quickly withdraws it.) "Heavens! there's a skin under the seat!"

Brown—"A skin! yes, and there's something in the skin!"

Smith—[courageously] Let me pull it out.

Suddenly Smith discovers that a big black dog has coiled himself around that valise, and he retreats a few steps in alarm.

Brown—"Gracious, we'll be left. I *must* have that valise!"

Smith—Go for it Brown. It's only a buffalo robe.

Brown stoops down again and thrusts his hand under the seat for the baggage; the dog snaps at his hand and poor Brown jumps up on the seat.

Brown—"There's a dog there! How am I to get my valise? I would sooner put my hand in a lion's mouth than trust it there again. See! [showing his hand, wet with the dog's saliva.] "The devilish brute came within a hair of biting a steak out of my right hand."

The situation was ludicrous in the extreme, and the two ear cornered friends would have lost the boat, their temper, and perhaps their coins had not Smith found a poker near the stove and raked the dog out, while Brown soon raked his valise out. But now the laugh was in the other mouth, for the dog made a jump at Smith, while Brown hastily retreated to the only outlet in the rear of the car. Smith dropped the poker, fled through the door just in time to save his left calf. Brown arrived in New York and Smith in Philad'a., where both regaled their friends with the dog story.

UNITED STATES COINS OF 1880.

Trade dollars of this year are still in demand, in proof condition, at \$2. While proof sets remain at mint prices. The half dollars, quarters and dimes of this year, for general circulation, have not yet been coined, and we shall probably have a repetition of the speculative excitement which attended the distribution of the halves, quarters and dimes of 1879, in the latter part of the present year.

EDITORIAL EXCURSIONS.—No. 5.

MARCH 22d, we packed our little brown leather bag full of desirable coins and visited Pottstown, Phoenixville, Reading, Lancaster and Harrisburg. The "Coin Boom" still continues at these places and Dietrich Steigerwalt, Adams, Williams, Glase, Miller, Clark—all numismatists of spirit—met us with open palms; and considerable trade, by way of exchanges, was made at these points, and some nice pieces were secured on both sides. While in Reading, we had the pleasure of seeing an impression of the Washington silver dollar, of 1796. This piece has been described in previous issues of this paper, and we have now only to add that it is our impression that the dies of the Washington Half Dollar 1792, have been used upon an old worn U. S. dollar of 1796; hence the piece can only be considered as a dollar in size, having the obverse and reverse of the Washington Half Dollar. On returning from Lancaster, we stopped off at Coatesville and left with Riday a very fine 1804 cent, a '53 quarter, without arrows, some uncirculated early dollars, &c. After a few compliments with Smith, Behn and others in C., we returned to Philadelphia, and on April 13, repacked our traps for New York. Here we met Samson Scott, Prosky, accomplished a little business with each and took steamer Bristol, for Fall River, going thence to Boston where we interviewed our old friends Woodward, Schayer, Ahlborn, Wells, Parmelee and a dozen other collectors and dealers—giving each a first view of a "starred 1794 cent"—and a "C. S. A." gold medal; picked up and put down some fine and rare pieces and jogged along over the Boston & Lowell R. R., stopping at Lowell. Here we passed a pleasant day with Brother Elliot, and picked up some revolutionary relics, fine silver coins and left behind colonials, cents, and a tip top numismatist and friend of many years standing. On to Nashua and Manchester, N. H., stopping at the latter city over night and part of the next day, where we met Mr. Adams, one of the most noted numismatists of the New England States, and for the kind reception received at his hands we feel that justice requires this public return of thanks. To Mr. Adams, we are indebted for the pleasure of visiting the Stark Mills, and passing through an almost endless succession of work rooms, and offices, witnessing the entire manufacture of cotton goods from the first point where the raw cotton went into the mill to be ruthlessly snatched into shape, then through the various mechanical contrivances which gave it strength, beauty, and value, until it came out baled for the market. Here, also, we examined the "seamless bags" for which the Stark Mills bears pre-eminence of manufacture in the markets of the wide world.

Imagine a five story brick building, extending a quarter of a mile, along the banks of a beautiful river and right in the heart of a thriving and populous city, and then think of the village of houses erected for employees and the thousands of human beings fed, clothed, housed and made happy by the vast capital invested in these extensive mills, for there are others be-

sides the one we visited—and then thank these enterprising Yankees for producing articles of cotton wear unequalled in the world. From the Stark Mills, we accompanied Mr. A., to his beautiful residence and here had the pleasure of feasting our eyes on his beautiful cabinet of coins, and right here we wish to correct the impression that Mr. Adams has disposed of his collection, as stated in about a thousand newspapers, within the past month. 'Tis true, this gentleman has parted with a duplicate collection of dollars but his series of fine pieces (gold, silver and copper) remain intact. Rare American gold pieces, dollars, halves, quarters, dimes, half dimes and cents, are in abundance and in most instances as fine as when they fell from the dies at the mint. Unique methods have been adopted by Mr. Adams in the arrangement of his coins, and velvet lined circular platters of black walnut are as plentiful as dishes at a hotel, and much better filled; while the novelty and beauty of the arrangement in chronological order of the various coins is unexcelled by any system we have examined for preserving and exhibiting the various series. A carved and turned black walnut cabinet containing foreign gold coins particularly attracted our attention. This unique affair was about 2 feet high, circular in form, about 12 inches diameter tapering off with an ornamental top. Through the centre was a steel rod which held in place a large number of black walnut, velvet lined platters, or shelves containing the precious "yellow boys," and secured by a patent lock at the top. Mr. Adams' ingenuity in arranging coins is wonderful and he can at a moment produce any set, or series wanted ready for examination without the necessity for manipulating the coins. We were honored with a seat in our friend's carriage and driven to the depot where at 5.45 P. M., we parted with as genial a gentleman as New England can produce. We arrived at Lowell, bunked at that splendid Hotel the American House, and the next day called a second time on Brother Elliot, one of the early numismatists, and one we have known and respected for square dealing for many years.

Thence to Boston again, visiting the numismatists of renown, and receiving an unexpected letter from home, returned to Philadelphia without enjoying a promised spin behind a 2.40 nag owned by W. Elliot Woodward. On the 27th of April, we leave again for New England and shall report results in Monthly Visitor No. 2.

CONGRATULATORY CORRESPONDENCE.

Jefferson, Scho Co., N. Y., March 3d, 1880.

Dear Sir:—

Please accept my thanks for your kindness in sending me a copy of the "Herald." It is the best coin publication I have met with. The only fault I find with it, is that it is not issued oftener. C. R. B.

MASON'S
MONTHLY VISITOR FOR JUNE.

Each subscriber to Vol., II., of the *Herald* is entitled to the *Visitor and Price Current* free for one year.

AN UNPUBLISHED FRANKLIN LETTER.

In publishing the following letter, which is written in his own hand, and as it will be seen in the *third person*, the distinguished philosopher, patriot and economist, "Our Ben," made a prodigal display of "Caps" in the use of very ordinary words, especially noticeable from the fact that Dr. Franklin was a printer. However, it is pardonable in one, whose attachment for the "Cap" of Liberty probably imbued him with a desire to use "Caps" to excess in all his remarkable public and private effusions. Washington also indulged in caps for very ordinary words. Here is the letter:—"Passy, September 15, 1781. Dr. Franklin presents his Compliments to Colonel Johannot, and Sends the Letter he desired for Mr. Williams. He has not the least Acquaintance with any French Merchant at Nantes that is likely to enter into Colonel Johannot's Views; and if he were to advise, it would be not to solicit at present any one for Goods upon Credit. The great Losses that have been Sustained by many who have adventured Goods into our Country have totally discouraged the Practice; and it will require time to reestablish the lost Confidence. Dr. Franklin having Occasion for some money in Boston, will be obliged to Colonel Johannot if he can give him Bills on that Place for 100 Guineas, in which Case they may be lodged with Mr. Williams, who shall have Colonel J's. Note to deliver up. Or if he has Time, Colonel J. may draw the Bills here directly. Mr. Franklin will write the Letters for Geneva tomorrow. Wishes him a good Journey."

A BRIEF DESCRIPTION.

OF THE NUMBER AND CONDITION OF THE SILVER AND COPPER COLONIAL AND UNITED STATES COINS IN THE UNITED STATES MINT CABINET AT PHILA., 1879.*

BY E. M. JR.

(Continued from March Number.)

U. S. QUARTER DOLLARS.

1796 Extra good.	1833 Proof.
1804 Uncirculated.	1834 [2] Used and Proof.
1805 Fine.	1835 to '37 Uncirculated.
1806 Uncirculated.	1838 Grecian H'd Do.
1807 Do.	1839 Lib. Seated "
1815 Fine.	1839 New "
1816 Uncirculated.	1840 to '48 Proofs.
1816 to '24 Do.	1849 Very fine.
1825 Very fine.	1850 Do. Do.
1827 Proof.	1851 to '53 Uncirculated.
1828 Uncirculated.	1854 Proof.
1831 Proof.	1855 Uncirculated.
1832 Very fine.	1856 to '80 Proofs.

*This list was commenced in June number of *Herald* 1879. Back numbers can be had at this office.

(To be continued.)

TO THE COIN DEALERS OF EUROPE.

A copy of this paper is sent to each dealer in Europe, and if any of the fraternity fail to receive it by June 1st, please notify us and it will be duplicated to them.

We should take it kindly to receive Sale Catalogues.

A CHALLENGE.

As a dealer in this city has announced his intention of reading a paper before the Numismatic and Antiquarian Society of this city in reference to "rumors afloat" that the C. S. A. Half Dollar, of 1861 is not a genuine product of the C. S. A. government, we hereby challenge said dealer and all others interested to produce one iota of evidence to sustain their doubts. We say to all who doubt the evidence we have presented to sustain our declaration of the genuineness of the above coin that we fear no honest inquiry into this matter. The printed "Acts and Resolutions of the Confederate Congress" at Montgomery, Alabama, February and March 1861, in which any person can read the resolution ordering the designs for a C. S. A. half dollar, is sufficient proof for us, without referring to the investigations of our own War Department, and affidavits of die-sinkers, designers, chief coiner of the C. S. A. government, &c. Let us have *proofs* that the coin is a "pretended, or invented" piece, or let the parties who know so much; or rather, say so much and *know so little*, forever keep their peace. For nearly one year we have scattered our facts concerning this coin broadcast, and it is too late in the day to cry "Wolf!" "Wolf!" when there is no wolf. Again we say, *bring on your evidence*, we challenge investigation, and will cheerfully publish any corroborated statement concerning the Confederate coin. We demand *justice* only and now await further developments.

A NEW ISSUE.*

BY E. MASON JR.

DEDICATED TO A CITY COIN DEALER.

A dealer in science termed numismatic,
Whose highest ambition is seeking uniques;
Recently indulged in a joy most ecstatic
And one of which Ovid artfully speaks:
He entered his home in perfect sobriety,
And heard such a chatter of a recent *pick up*—
With praises on praises of the *handsome variety*
That he said to himself, "they've found a stray pup!"
He rushed to the madam with—"Pray what is it;
An *eighteen four dollar*, or *cent ninety-two*;
Is it *olive* or *red*—did you buy it, or miss it?"
"Oh, hubby," she said, "its *entirely new*!"
Around gathered friends, the piece was unwrapped,
And appeared *without scratch*, or *slightest abrasion*;
The father was happy, though most neatly trapped
And wouldn't exchange his joy for the nation!

(CAUTIOUS MORAL.)

Collectors be cautious—remember what's hinted—
Select a nice *piece*, not very *antique*;
Of *proofs* and *new issues* you'll never be stinted
And some day if lucky, you'll *strike a unique*!"

*Not for sale!

ANOTHER RARE VARIETY OF U. S. CENTS.

For the first time we make public the discovery of a 1797 cent with an indented periphery, resembling a lettered edge, caused by the clamps holding the planchets, to prevent turning in the dies.

Mason's Coin Collectors' Herald.

PHILADELPHIA, JUNE, 1880.

E. MASON, Jr.,

Editor and Proprietor.

QUARTERLY

TERMS:—\$1 00 per Annum in Advance.

DOINGS OF OUR SOCIETY.

STATED meeting of the Numismatic and Antiquarian Society of Philadelphia was held at its hall, May 6th, President Price in the chair. The meeting was probably the largest attendance ever present without any especial matter being announced for the consideration of the society. After the transaction of the usual routine business, two very valuable copies of Aztec and Maya calendar stones were deposited in the custody of the society. The Aztec stone differs materially from the well-known calendar in the Museo Nacional in Mexico. The Maya stone was brought from Yucatan about 40 years ago by the late Benjamin Norman, a celebrated traveller, and the original was destroyed by accidental fire at New Orleans some years ago. These fine antiquities will engage the especial attention of the society at a later period of this year.

Mr. Louis N. Scott read a dissertation upon the bearing of the act of Parliament in 1751 for the alteration of the calendar upon the various dates connected with Penn's arrival in America, and at various places in his passage to this city. Mr. Scott exhibited a table, which he had very carefully prepared, illustrative of his address, and showed the society four methods by which the various dates might be ascertained. An animated discussion took place, after which the consideration of all matters connected with this subject was made the special order of business for the October meeting.

A letter was read asking for information about the Washington token of 1783, bearing the inscription "Unity States," instead of United States. The view of the curator of numismatics was expressed that it should be considered as of French origin, the composition of the metal being similar to the French bronze coins of that period. The Washington cents struck in England are of copper and have the inscription correct.

A letter was read from Dr. Coates in reference to the Meiggs medal, which had been erroneously represented as commemorating the opening of the railway over the Andes in Chili. He stated that there was no railway over the Andes in Chili. That Mr. Meiggs built the road from Valparaiso to Santiago, at the western base of the Andes. The medal represents the *viaducto de verrugas*, and iron bridge [spanning a chasm 580 feet long and 252 high, the highest railroad bridge in the world] and commemorates on the reverse the railroad from Lima up the Reinal river to the summit of the Andes.

Verruga [meaning a wart] is the name of the mountain stream crossed by the bridge, and whose waters were supposed to produce the horrid bloody strawberry-looking warts (*verrugas*) that affect the people on the Peruvian coast like boils.

Mr. Myer called the attention of the society to the parallelism of this disease with the one supposed to affect the people of the East.

At a late hour, after a very interesting meeting, the society adjourned.

[Our worthy friend and brother, Mr. S. K. H. did not read his promised Essay on the genuineness of the C. S. A. Half Dollar of 1861. Perhaps we may have the "paper" at the next monthly meeting.

Editor.]

OUR EXCHANGES REVIEWED.

American Journal of Numismatics for April has been received from Boston, and we note, first the beautiful frontispiece, an illustration of the obverse and reverse of the gold medal presented to John Adams by the States of Holland, March 6th, 1788, followed by a very elaborate description of the medal and the proceedings of presentation—all of great interest to Americans. To briefly sum up the excellencies of this number of our contemporary, we would name simply the bill of fare presented, viz:—

Medal in honor of Mr. Gladstone,
A Danish Hebrew Coin,
A Wooden Medallion,
The Canterbury Coins—Edward I, II, III.
Greek Coinage.
Old Medals found in Philadelphia.

(We did not think the last named worth attention or insertion in the *HERALD*, as the Medals named were an exact counterpart of those sold at U. S. Mint in this city for one dollar and fifty cents.—Editor.)

Annual Assay of U. S. Coins,
Lost Countries found by coins,
Canadian Numismatics,
Increase of Coin Collectors in the West,
Numismatic Discoveries,
Life-saving Medal,
An Indian Money—Cowrie,
Cuttings, Coin Sales, Transactions of Societies,
Notes and Queries, Bank Notices and Editorials.

The above, certainly, gives evidence of the healthy condition of the Boston Journal. Success to it!

Scott & Co's *Coin Collectors' Journal*, April.—This number of the "Blue Book," opens with a continuation of the "Coins of the U. S.," followed by "Copperheads of New York city," then an article on the "Monuments of Antiquity," followed by "The names of noted coins and their origin, Auction Sales, The Medallie and Metallic Currency of Canada, The Victoria Cross, Work of the U. S. Mints for January, Re-strike Pattern Pieces, Clippings, and Answers to Correspondents." We are pleased to note an improvement in Scott & Co's Monthly, and welcome the timely articles on American Numismatics.

Numisma. March, 1880.—This interesting and welcome quarterly is with us once again all the way from that romantic and lovely spot "Irvington-on-the-Hudson." Brother Frossard publishes a readable paper and one that always interests us. The present number is a little behind the former issues as respects sprightly paragraphs and sparkling editorials. Too much space is given to those uninteresting "promises" in brass "*Sutlers Checks*." The editorial page is taken up with "Numismatic Publications," and "Masonic Numismatics." The three following pages are filled with "Reviews," "Coin Sales," "Coming Sales," etc. Brother Frossard reviews Mason's *Coin Collectors' Herald* in a facetious spirit, and winds up his remarks with an invitation to the editor hereof to call upon him, and he promises to show up some coins, that will make the afore mentioned editor "hop about with delight, and his mouth water clear up to his eyes." We made an effort on our recent visit to New York to see our worthy brother, but were informed that he talks, writes and reads modern languages in New York city in the day time, juggles coins in the evening, and snores the happy midnight hours away at his delightful retreat, "Irvington-on-the-Hudson." We'll catch you yet Bro. Frossard, and if you can outmatch us in showing up fine or rare coins, or out-sell us in price, we'll stand peaches and cream for two.

The Coin Journal, March.—Steigerwalt's little Bi-Monthly favorite, comes to us enlarged and improved, and is filled with a variety of interesting matter. "Stigey" don't take to our Coin Sale Cats. Perhaps he is fearful of his peace being scratched.

American Numismatic Herald.—The second number of this "little experiment," is before us, published and forwarded by A. B. Carman, Richland, O. The editor of this paper is rather befogged over the meaning of *Uniques*; evidently believing that there is but one *unique* in the world. He says: "Mr. Mason notes *three uniques* in his journal; yet, there is but *one genuine unique*." Drive on your numismatic car, man, but steer clear of plural difficulties over *unique* coins. This number of the A. N. H. is an improvement on the first number and let us hope that the third will be an improvement on the present issue. The coin matter in this issue is not worth commenting on.

RULES OF THE UNITED STATES MINT.

In response to numerous letters from all parts of the country in reference to the rules prevailing at the mint in this city, governing the distribution of coins and Pattern Pieces, we cheerfully insert A. Loudon Snowden's circular, dated June 18, 1879.

—RULES.—

1. The price of Medals, Proof Coins, Pattern Pieces, &c., shall be fixed by the Superintendent of the Mint, with the approval of the Director.
2. No Coin or Pattern Piece shall be struck after the year of its date, nor in any other metal or alloy than that in which the Coin was issued or intended to be issued, except experimental pieces in Copper or other

soft metal to prove the dies, under the direction of the Superintendent. The dies shall be defaced at the end of each year, and such impressions as the Engraver may find necessary to take while preparing the dies, shall be destroyed in the presence of the Superintendent, when the dies are finished.

3. When a Pattern Piece is adopted and used in the regular coinage in the same year, it shall then be issued as a Proof, at a price near its current value; or, if it comes out early in the year, it will be placed in the regular Proof Set. The Superintendent will furnish, without charge, on application therefor, a Pattern Piece to any incorporated Numismatic Society in the United States. In such cases, if the pattern is in Gold or Silver, the value of the metal will be required.

4. The price of the regular Proof Set of Gold Coins will be Forty-Three Dollars in Gold; the Proof Set of Silver and Minor Coins, Four Dollars in Silver or Currency. Proof Sets are furnished of the current year, but not of former years.

5. The Coins of the United States are

GOLD.	SILVER.	COPPER—NICKEL.
Double Eagle,	Dollar,	Five Cents,
Eagle,	Trade Dollar,	Three Cents,
Half Eagle,	Half Dollar,	
Three Dollar,	Quarter Dollar,	BRONZE.
Quarter Eagle,	Dime,	One Cent.
Dollar.		

The coinage of the Silver Dollar of 412½ grains, the Five and Three Cent Silver Pieces, and Bronze Two Cent Piece, was discontinued under the Coinage Act of 1873, which went into effect on the 1st of April of that year. The Silver Dollar was restored by the Act of February 28, 1878. The coinage of the Silver Twenty-Cent Piece was authorized by the Act of March 3, 1875, and terminated by the Act of May 2, 1878.

A. LOUDON SNOWDEN.

CORNERING COINS.

Parties who have been busy the past six months in putting away the proof sets of 1879, and the uncirculated fifty, twenty-five and ten cent pieces of the same year, have had but little profit for their pains.

Recently one of the corners broke unexpectedly and proof sets of 1879 were offered at \$5.50, half dollars at 70 cents, quarter dollars at 35 cents, and dimes at 20 cents, while the former prices were respectively \$7.00, \$1.00, 50 and 30 cents.

It is better to get a reasonable profit on scarce coins and sell rather than to be compelled to unload at an unprofitable season.

THE JENKS COLLECTION SOLD.

Bro. Woodward of Boston, who has been on a visit to this city, popped into our office on the 11th ult., to inform us that had purchased the Jenks Cabinet of American Coins, Medals, &c., which he will offer at public sale sometime next Fall, at Bangs & Co's Auction Rooms, New York.

A GEOLOGICAL MADRIGAL.

I have found out a gift for my fair,
 I know where the fossils abound,
 Where the footprints of *Ares* declare
 The birds that once walked on the ground;
 O, come, and—in technical speech—
 We'll walk this Devonian shore,
 Or on some Silurian beach
 We'll wander, my love, evermore.

I will show the sinuous track
 By the slow moving annelid made,
 Or the Trilobite that, further back,
 In the old Potsdam sandstone was laid.
 Thon shalt see: in his Jurassic tomb,
 The Plesiosaurus embalm'd;
 In his Oolitic prime and his bloom—
 Iguanodon safe and unharmed!

You wished—I remember it well,
 And I loved you the more for the wish—
 For a perfect Cystitidian shell
 And O, if earth's stratum contains
 In its lowest Silurian drift.
 Or Palaeozoic remains
 The same—'tis your lover's free gift!

Then come love, and never say nay,
 But calm all your maidenly fears,
 We'll note, love, in one summer's day,
 The record of millions of years;
 And through the Darwinian plan
 Your sensitive feelings may shock,
 We'll find the beginning of man—
 Our fossil ancestors in rock.

A REMARKABLE COUNTERFEIT.

A New Orleans dispatch to the *Washington Post* says: "The Sub-Treasury Department here have come across a counterfeit silver quarter, a remarkable feature about which is that it is intrinsically more valuable than the genuine quarter dollar. According to Mr. M. V. Davis, the efficient coiner at the Mint, to whom it was sent to be assayed, it weighs .978 grains, or .135 above legal weight, and contains 50 millimes of silver above standard, and also three millimes of gold, which silver coins do not contain, except in rare instances. Mr. James Albrecht, the assayer reports that its fineness is .950 silver, and .003 gold. The only defect about the piece is in the engraving of the words, "In God we trust." The word "America" is abbreviated to "Amea," in the words "United States of America."

U. S. PATTERNS OF 1880.

We learn that several new designs for silver half dollars have been submitted to the government for adoption; bearing a resemblance to the present standard dollars. For description, see our Visitor No. 2.

THE DOLLAR HISTORICALLY.

The word "dollar" is derived from the German word *thaler*—literally *valleyer*, meaning a valley—and was so called because the first thalers were coined in a little mining town in a valley of Bohemia, in the year 1518, by one of the Counts of Schlick, under the right of mintage conferred by the Emperor Sigismund in 1437. They were silver pieces of one ounce in weight, and were uniform in weight and fineness. They soon became synonyms for honest coins of full weight and value, although the weight was changed by other coiners. From this term came the low-German *dahler*, the Italian *tolero*, and finally the well-known "dollar." This word was found in Britain already in use when the idea of the proper name for honest coins crept into that country, being derived from the Gaelic *dol* a [a valley] and *ard*, (a hill,) together signifying a valley shut in by hills—precisely the same in signification as the Schlicken thaler of Germany.

It is claimed, however, by some German scholars that the term was derived from the word "talent," which in the middle ages designated a pound of gold; but the former origin is doubtless the correct one. In 1518, one year after the coinage of the Schlicken thaler, Charles V., King of Spain, became also Emperor of Germany, and he adopted a new coat-of-arms, in which those of Germany were united with those of Spain and the coinage of Spain was stamped with this new device, giving rise later to the name "pillar dollars." These dollars were from the mint of Seville, and Sir Isaac Newton, assayer to the British mint, set them down at the exact value of fifty-four pence. Thus that which was known in England as a dollar, and is our dollar of exchange, is the adaptation of an idea of German origin to a Gaelic word and a Spanish coin.

It will be seen from the above that the word "dollar" is not of American origin, nor of American limitation, and is only interesting in the fact that it was adopted as the name of the monetary unit of the United States, first by the Congress of Confederation of American States in 1786, when its weight was fixed at 375.64 grains of pure silver, intended to be equivalent to the fifty-four pence dollar of Newton, and later, in 1792, when Congress established a national mint, and ordered "dollars of units" to be coined, each of the value of the Spanish milled or "pillar dollar," and to contain thirty-seven and a quarter grains of pure silver, fifty-one and three-quarters pence sterling. In February, 1873, Congress changed the unit of value from a silver to a gold dollar of 25.7 grains of standard gold. Under the Act of 1878 the coinage of the silver dollar has been restored as a standard dollar.

EUROPE vs AMERICA.

Numismatology is an old science in Europe, and a new one in America; hence Americans are far behind Europeans in the numismatic science; but the time is not distant when we shall vie with our foreign friends in numismatic works. A little over twenty years has elapsed since America made an earnest effort to place

the study of coins on a permanent footing, and the rise has been rapid. We do not find it so difficult to collect the American issues, as the case with foreign pieces, and antique coins are scarcely collected by the average numismatist, and but little is known on this side of the water of the rare gold, silver and base coins of the early ages. Roman and Greek ancient coins are a closed and sealed book to most of the American students of numismatology, and the great cost of importing these desirable coins from abroad is a stumbling block in the way of the American collector. Our U. S. Mint, too, bears no comparison to the mints, of the old world. All this is to be changed.—Wait and see.

AID FOR IRELAND.

All numismatists should remember the starving poor of Ireland, and contribute something, however small in amount, towards the *New York Herald* fund. We started the ball in motion from this city, as the following correspondence will show:

Philadelphia, April 2d, 1880.

Messrs. Bangs & Co., Auctioneers,
739 & 741 Broadway, New York.

Gentlemen:—Believing a *small thing* will sometimes lead to *large results*; and wishing to contribute *my mite* to the suffering poor of Ireland, I enclose a brilliant proof "Trade Dollar," coined at the mint in this city the present year. The dollar is already rare as the coinage of them has been suspended except in full sets. You will confer a favor by offering this beautiful piece at public auction at the coin sale of Edward Frossard on Saturday, with the hope that it may realize a good amount of the needful to add to the *Herald* fund of your city. I hope the buyer of the coin will also add the piece to the amount realized, and let the whole be handed to the Editor of the *New York Herald*, or the committee of *Herald* fund.

Yours truly,

E. MASON, JR. Numismatist.

RESULTS.

New York, April 6th, 1880

Mr. Edward Mason, Jr.

Dear Sir:—

We duly received your favor of 2d, enclosing Trade Dollar 1880, for sale. The piece brought \$2.50 and we have sent a check to the *Herald*, as directed and requested that the amount should be credited to "Numismatist."

Truly yours,

BANGS & CO.

We return thanks to Messrs. Bangs & Co., and also to Edward Frossard for the courtesies extended as above, and wish we had been able to have sent an 1804 dollar as a nucleus for a numismatic fund to swell the list of America's contributors to the good work now going on to relieve the sufferings of the poorer class of Ireland.

Correspondents Department.

REPLIES AND INFORMATION.

C. S. SMITH.—We know of three "starred 1794 cents," viz: one owned by Mr. Haseltine, one by Mr. Rorich and one by Mr. Mason, all of this city.

W. E. WOODWARD.—Thanks for catalogues of the Searing Library and the Searing Coin Collection, could not make public notice as we went to press after date of sale.

L. P. HIGGINS.—Thanks for photograph. We want all our patrons' photos, particularly collectors of note, as we propose publishing them in future issues.

R. T. Jr.—It is now believed that the Liverpool 1804 U. S. Dollar is altered from an 1803 dollar.

S. S. W.—You should commence at once. We cannot send Monthly Price Currents free, unless to subscribers of Vol. II. Only \$1, per Annum for Herald.

C. J. T., LEIPZIG.—We hope you received the order for 1794, half dollar, sent by steamer April 21, also the other orders. When you have U. S. or Colonial coins in any metal drop a line and pencil rubbings, will send Bill of Exchange by return mail. Hope to see you soon. Did you receive our package of scarce C. S. A. Notes?

A. W., BREMEN.—Save all the rare American coins for us at 10 to 25 per cent. over other offers. Will see you soon. Write, if this paper reaches you before June 5th. We leave about 25th of June.

ADOLPHUS HESS.—All arrived safe. Be sure and send pencil rubbings of fine, or rare coins. Write when you receive this paper.

R. A. LACEY.—Your rubbings exhibit a scarce variety of 1786 New Jersey Copper, which we have dubbed "The Bristling Mane Variety," having no "coultter" to the plow beam; the other not so scarce Hollow Neck Variety N. J., 1787, the third, the "Negro Head" thick lip variety N. J., 1787.

J. B. H., SALEM.—Will visit you on our next trip East.

G. H. W., BOSTON.—Called at your office 31 Boylston street, climbed two pair of stairs, but nobody in. Will try again.

Wm. H. N.—There were but 5,900 *half dollars* struck at the U. S. Mint, for circulation, in 1879: 3,030 *three* and *one dollar* gold pieces and 1,541 Trade dollars.

H. L., CHICAGO.—Can supply a few of first volume of Herald at \$1.

G. W. E., LOWELL.—Was at your office April 29, but you had left town. Hope to see you ere long.

S. C., NORTHAMPTON.—We have seen the New Jersey cent "horse head left," but have no faith in its genuineness. See our Numismatic Visitor & Price Current, No. 2, out this month.

Table of Gold & Silver Coins, with their Values.

Collated for Coin Collectors' Reference. By E. M., Jr.

GOLD COINS.		Hundred Lire, Italian	
	dols. cts.	States.....	19 15
U. S. Double Eagle.....	20 00	Eighty Lire.....	15 32
U. S. Eagle (since 1834)...	10 00	Forty Lire.....	7 66
U. S. Eagle (before 1834)...	10 50	Twenty Lire.....	3 83
U. S. Half Eagle (since 1834).....	5 00	Ten Lire.....	1 90
U. S. Half Eagle (before 1834).....	5 25	Sequin.....	2 20
U. S. Quarter Eagle.....	2 50	Ten Scudo.....	10 00
California Half Eagle.....	4 90 to 5 00	Twenty Drachms, Greece.	3 30
U. S. Gold Dollar.....	1 00	Turkish Gold Coin.....	24
		SILVER COINS.	
Doubleloon, Mexico Central America, New Granada, Ecuador, Columbia, Peru, Bolivia, Chili.....	15 60	U. S. Dollar.....	1 00
Doubleloon, Spain.....	16 00	Half Dollar.....	50
Half-Donb., Bolivia Peru, &c.....	7 75	Quarter Dollar.....	25
Half Doubleloon, Spain.....	8 00	One Dime.....	10
Quarter-Doubleloon, Mexico, Columbia, Peru, Bolivia, Chili, &c.....	3 75	Half Dime.....	5
Quarter-Doubleloon, Spain.....	4 00	Dollar, Mexico, Cent. America, New Granada, Columbia, Peru, Chili, Argentine Confederation, &c.....	1 00
Eighth-Doubleloon, Spain.....	2 00	Base Dollar, New Granada.	65
Sixteenth-Doubleloon, Mexico, Central America, New Granada, &c.....	90	Base Dollar, Bolivia.....	90
Sixteenth-Doubleloon, Mexico, &c.....	1 00	960 Reis, Brazil and Port	98
Half-Joe, Brazil.....	8 50	1,200 Reis.....	1 00
Half-Joe, Portugal.....	6 00 to 8 50	One Real, S. Am. S., 6 to	12
Eighth-Joe, Portugal.....	1 75	Half Dollar.....	30 to 50
Moidore, Brazil and Portugal.....	4,75 to 6 00	Quarter Dollar.....	22 to 24
Tenth-Moidore, Brazil and Portugal.....	50	Spanish Dollar.....	1 00
Crown, Portugal.....	5 75	Half-Dollar.....	40 to 50
Dobraon, Portugal.....	34 00	Quarter-Dollar.....	23 to 24
Five Sovereigns, England.....	24 20	Head-Pistareen.....	18
Double Sovereign.....	9 67	Pistareen.....	16
Sovereign.....	4 80 to 4 83	Half-Pistareen.....	8
Half Sovereign.....	2 41	Five Pecetas.....	90
Guinea.....	5 00	One Peceta.....	16
Half Guinea.....	2 50	Crusado Portugal.....	50
Third of a Guinea.....	1 66	Six Vintems.....	12
One Mohur, East India Co.	6 75	Testoon.....	9
Double Louis d'or, France	9 00	Crown, England.....	1 00 to 1 12
Louis d'or.....	4 50	Half-Crown.....	50 to 56
Forty Francs.....	7 66	Shilling.....	23
Twenty Francs.....	3 83	Sixpence.....	11
Six Francs.....	1 12	Rupce, East India Co.....	40
Ten Thalers, Germany.....	7 80	Crown, France.....	1 00
Five Thalers.....	3 90	Five Francs.....	93
Frederick d'or, Prussia.....	3 90	Two Francs.....	34
Double Frederick d'or.....	7 80	One Franc.....	17
Sovereign.....	6 50	Crown, Italy.....	93 to 97
Half-Sovereign.....	3 25	Scudo.....	86 to 97
Ten Guilders.....	3 98	One Livre.....	17
Five Guilders.....	1 98	Rix-Dollar.....	93
Carolin.....	4 75	Florin.....	20
Half Carolin.....	2 35	Crown, Germany.....	1 00 to 1 02
Quarter Carolin.....	1 18	Thaler.....	66 to 1 02
Twelve Marks.....	1 55	Florin.....	40 to 45
Ducat.....	2 20	Gilder.....	36
Quadruple Ducat, Austria	8 80	Six Stivers.....	6
Twenty five Francs.....	4 75	Six Kreuters.....	2
Imperial, Russia.....	7 78	Ducat, Germany.....	1 15
Half Imperial, or Five Roubles.....	3 90	Ducat, Belgium.....	93
		Crown, Switzerland.....	1 00
		Rix-Dollar, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, &c.....	75 to 1 10
		Rouble, Russia.....	73

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